

Claims

1. A video telephone comprising:
- image pickup means which pickups a photogenic subject and generates a pickup signal;
- 5 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and outputs a pickup image signal;
- image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal to an image modification processing for protecting a portrait right;
- 10 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the image modification processing means; and
- communication means which transmits an output image signal
- 15 from the image signal selection means.
2. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter selects and
- 20 outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.
3. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified
- 25 image signal from the image modification processing means at

a time of starting communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

5 4. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a defocusing processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a defocused state.

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10 5. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a deforming processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of pixels in the pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio.

15 6. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a resolution reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image signal.

20 7. A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein the image modification processing means performs a tone resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup image signal.